

士 郎 正 宗

THE PROMETHEAN BALANCE

APPLESEED™

S H I R O W M A S A M U N E



APPLESEED™

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APPLESEED™ BOOK FOUR: THE PROMETHEAN BALANCE

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士 郎 正 宗 THE PROMETHEAN BALANCE

APPLESEED™

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[with DUANE JOHNSON]

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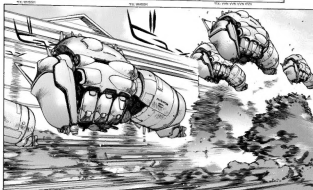
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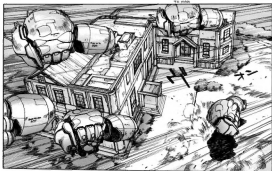


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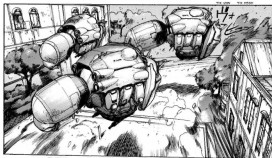
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THE TOWN



THE STRIKE

THE CLASH

THE BOMBARD





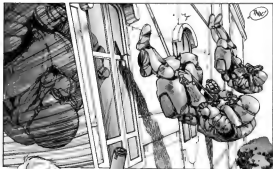




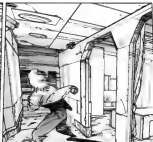


*Goonan's derogatory term for former members of the United States Army Green Berets... prejudice learned from her father. The Mumma Holy Republic. Goonan refers to the "Second Vietnam" where the U.S. and the Soviet Union fought in a hell of a sand against suicide troops and terrorists



















JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A CLUMSY ASS-HOLE!!

IF THIS WAS REAL, I'D BE DEAD NOW!!



WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU LAUGHING ABOUT, PANTY?



F*CHRIST'S SAKE, YOU TWO!!

C'MON AND TRY IT!!

YOU STUCK-UP LITTLE BITCH!!



YOU'RE THE FIRST ONE I SHOOT!!

YOU HEARD ME? AND YOU BETTER HEAR THIS! IF I EVER HAVE TO TEAM UP WITH YOU AGAIN--



SAY WHAT?!!



YEAH?



MAGUS!

AND HELLO THERE!

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT IDIOTIC BROAD SQUALLING ABOUT NOW...?



4. プロメテウスの大天秤





TWO DAYS AGO, A MAN CONTACTED OUR SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU AT HEADQUARTERS ASKING FOR HELP.



SO WE MADE THE SWAP, AND NINETY MINUTES LATER HIS FAMILY WAS RELEASED. THEY'RE SAFE.

HE'S THE HEAD OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH AT BEZERRIC TECHNICA. HIS FAMILY HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED AND THE CRIMINALS WERE DEMANDING THAT HE PRODUCE A SET OF PARTS IN EXCHANGE FOR

WE WERE SURVIVING INVESTIGATIONS. SAFE.



THE PARTS WERE LOADED INTO EIGHT VANS, BUT TWENTY MINUTES AGO WE LOST TRACK OF THE VANS AND THE TWO INVESTIGATORS THAT HAD BEEN TRACKING IT.

ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, THE CRIMINALS FOUND THE TRANSMITTERS WE PUT ON THE PARTS. BUT WE MANAGED TO KEEP A TAIL ON THEM ANYWAY.



HERE'S
WHAT
WE'RE
LOOKING
FOR



AS SOON AS
WE PICKED UP
THE FAMILY, WE
CLOSED THE
DISTRICT TIGHT--
AIRPORTS, TUNES,
PORT FACILITIES,
ALL LOOKED
DOWN.



SMALL
ENOUGH
TO LOAD
INTO WANS,
BUT TOO
BIG TO
HIDE?

I PRESUME
THESE PARTS
AREN'T
SOMETHING
THE
CRIMINALS
COULD LET
ANYONE
SEE



SUPER
COOLING TANK
FOR A HERMIE'S
CONTROL CON.
SMALL THERMAL
SHELL FOR A
COMPACT FUSION
REACTOR

The diagram shows various mechanical components, including pipes, valves, and a central tank. There are also some text labels and a small schematic of a reactor.

BREASTPLATE
END FOR A
LANDMADE MAIN
FRAME HP
ASSEMBLY ENOUGH
FOR ONE
MACHINE



THIS IS NO NORMAL LAND-MATE. JUDGING FROM THE INTERIOR OF THE HIP AND LEG ASSEMBLY, IT'S BEEN DESIGNED TO BE WORN BY A CYBORG.



ASSEMBLING JUST THE PARTS WE KNOW OF WOULD PUT IT OVER THIRTEEN FEET HIGH. SO IT'S AT LEAST TWICE AS BIG AS A NORMAL LAND-MATE.

AND ONE MORE THING: SIZE.



LET ME EXPLAIN THE BACKGROUND.

IF YOU HAD ACUTE APPENDICITIS, WOULD YOU ASK A ROTUS TO DO THE OPERATION?



OF THE TWELVE ONLY SIX HAVE THE KIND OF SPACE AND EQUIPMENT IT WOULD TAKE TO ASSEMBLE THE GIANT.

THE FINAL ASSEMBLY AND ADJUSTMENT PROCEDURES REQUIRE LARGE AMOUNTS OF WATER AND ELECTRICITY. TWELVE LOCATIONS WITHIN THE INVESTIGATION AREA HAVE REGISTERED SHARP INCREASES IN WATER AND POWER CONSUMPTION OVER THE LAST HOUR.



IF YOU'VE GOT IT PINNED DOWN THAT CLOSE, WHY NOT USE ONE OF THE ROBOT GUN PLATFORMS?



THERE ARE EXTREMELY SENSITIVE NEGOTIATIONS, ARRANGED BY AGENTS.

ONE WEEK FROM TODAY, THERE WILL BE A SECRET CONFERENCE AT THE TOP OF THE "BEEZKOC" DOME BETWEEN THE LEADERS OF IMPERIAL AMERICANA AND THE UNITED SOVIET SOCIALIST STATE REPUBLICS.

HIS PRESENT WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN. THE REAL PROBLEM, HOWEVER, IS THE GUY ON THE LEFT. HE APPEARS TO HAVE ENTERED OLYMPIUS IN DISGUISE. WE HAVE NO DATA ON HIM, NOTHING AT ALL.



THE DESIGN OF THE PARTS SUGGESTS THAT THE MAN ON THE RIGHT IS THE FATHER OF THE GIANT SOME OF YOU MAY KNOW HIM--DA, SLADE. HERE'S A SURVEILLANCE SHOT WE TOOK AT THE CONFERENCE SITE--WE WERE CHECKING OUT PEOPLE WHO'VE ORDERED SUSPICIOUS LANDMATE PARTS.



THE FISH TOOK THE BAIT. WE'VE GOT THE HOOK IN HIS THROAT RIGHT NOW--HE'S UNDER INTERROGATION.

NOW I GET IT...



THREE DAYS AGO WE DELIBERATELY LEAKED WORD THAT THE CONFERENCE HAD BEEN PUSHED FORWARD THREE DAYS.



ONLY FOURTEEN PEOPLE ARE IN A POSITION TO KNOW ABOUT THE CONFERENCE. SIX OF THEM ARE YOU RIGHT HERE THAT LEAVES EIGHT UNDER SUSPICION.



A LEAK, MAYBE? SOMEONE FED THE DATA TO THE OUTSIDE?

"Beezok"--or "the beautifully built house"--is the arcology complex and distrid in Olympus housing most embassies and public offices.



THAT'S
ALL
QUESTIONS?

YOUR JOB IS TO
FOLLOW EVERY
LEAD, FIND OUT
WHAT'S GOING ON,
AND CLEAN THEM
OUT. LANCE IS
IN TACTICAL
COMMAND.



WHETHER IS
A CHALLENGE
TO US, OR JUST
A LOUSY PLAN,
IT'S STILL TOO
AMATEURISH.
MAYBE IT'S JUST
A DEMONSTRATION
FROM THE
FEDERAL
BUREAU.

THIS IS A FOOLISH WAY
TO ASSASSINATE A HIGH
OFFICIAL. THEY MUST
KNOW THAT NO MATTER
HOW QUICKLY THEY MOVE,
WE CAN TRACE THEIR
WEAPONS PROCUREMENTS. THE WHOLE
THING STINKS.



DON'T FORGET
THE BANG'S MOVE
WITH THE
EQUIPMENT. WE'LL
DELIVER YOU TO
THE HEAD-OF
THEIR
CLASSIFIED
EQUIPMENT.



WHO
WHAT
WHERE
HOW
WHY

NO
PROBLEM
WANT
A
PHONE

SUPRENTENDENT
CAN YOU SEE
US AFTER
NOTES, BOMBERS
AND A GUN
PLATFORM?













To wit: the Islamic Republic of Iran still recovering from debilitating acts of suppression; the "Great Devils" sold superpowers; the Kurds; and all forces operating within them. The Murrina Holy Republic has political ties with Poseidon. Unconfirmed reports credit Murrina with nuclear weapons capability.



CHRIST, A WHOLE DAY OF THIS AND NOTHING TO SHOW! NO ICE, NO WEED, NOTHING! IT'S TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!



NO PROBLEM, OFFICER -- KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!



PUT THE LAND-MATES ON FULL ALERT! WHAT WAS THAT SOUND?

CAPTAIN!



AND THOSE BIO-BOTS DON'T DO DRUGS AT ALL...

THE ONLY ILLEGAL LANDMATES WERE JUST HOT-RODDED SPORTS MODELS.





COME IN HQ!
CHECK-
POINT 24
CALLING
WITH A
CODE 907



YOU
HAVE TEN
SECONDS
TO
COMPLY!!



USE OF LAND-
MINES ON PUBLIC
THOROUGHFARES
IS A CRIMINAL
VIOLATION! POP
YOUR SUIT AND
COME OUT
SLOWLY!



HA
HA?



SET THE
MAGNETIC
MINES!!

HOLD
YOUR FIRE...
RICOCHETS
COULD END
UP IN THE
CIVIL
HOUSING!







*Search and Strike Force: an intelligent machine that searches for targets matching pre-programmed criteria. Uses IR codes to avoid friendly forces









"SASAM warheads that miss their targets are designed to become mines." This function is investigated for use by urban police units. When launched without specific targeting information, SASAM top attack projectiles explode by target size. The missiles are also capable of measuring the force of impact with their target making a microsecond decision as to which detonation method will best penetrate the armor encountered.

GODDAMN
IT, DELUNAN!
GET YOUR
ASS IN
GEAR!

COME
ON--HE'S
GOT TO BE
A CHICKEN
SHIT
TO SEND
ESHWAT
AFTER A
DECOY!

ESHWAT
WILL DO,
BUT DON'T
ROLL HIM--
THAT'S TOP
PRIORITY!

DELUNAN
DELUNAN!

WE
RE
HARRING
THE
DRUG-
LEADERS!

STILL, HE
DOESN'T
HAVE TO
BE US,
DOES
HE?

YOU TELL ME--
OF THE SEVEN OF
US IN THIS SHIP,
ONLY YOU AND
I HAVE BEEN
TRAINED FOR
THIS SHIT.

ESHWAT
WILL DO
THE
HARRING!



YOU'VE GOT A HANDICAP, SO BE CAREFUL, OKAY?



LOW ALTITUDE TURBULENCE IS PRETTY BAD TODAY, *Shinn*

WE'LL SEND YOU VIDEO FOOTAGE OF THE TARGET WHILE YOU'RE DESCENDING.



EVERYONE'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU, YOU KNOW.



OH, THANKS. NO PROBLEM.



LOOKS FINE.

DON'T WORRY.



LET THEM BACK AND GIVE THEM CREDIT, ON YOUR LEFT!

DAMMIT, DEUNAN! I WISH YOU'D QUIT ACTING LIKE THAT-- CAN'T YOU GIVE OTHER PEOPLE A LITTLE MORE CREDIT?

BUT IT'S ONLY THE GUYS ON MY RIGHT WHO ARE *WORTHY*!

TO BE HONOR









PG. 3004

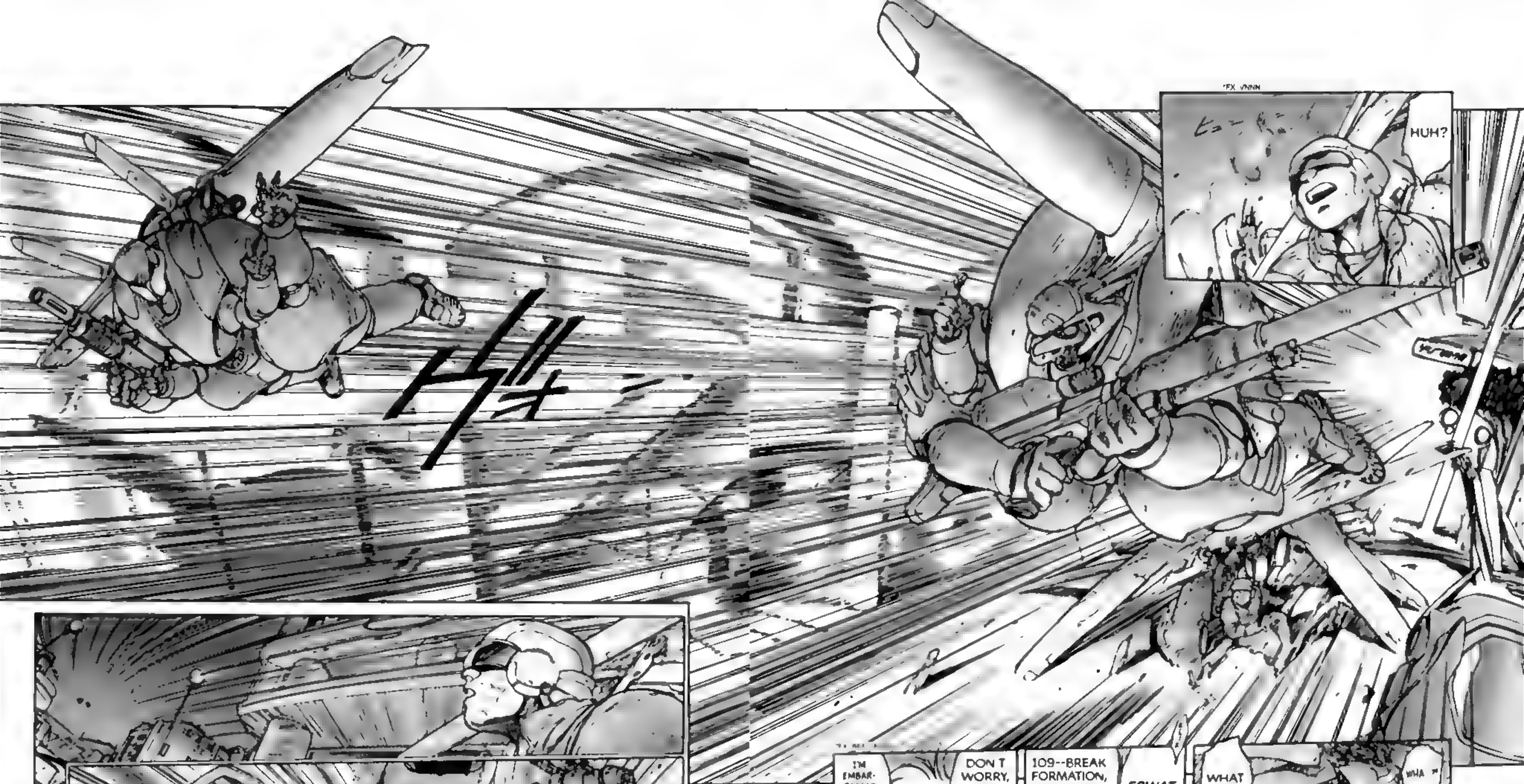


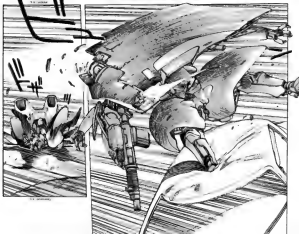
PG. 3005





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"Giving up!!" The angle necessary for projectile penetration rather than ricochet. Perpendicular is optimum; minimum depends on armor and projectile









WHAT'D
YOU
SEE?



IT COULD BE
A DEFECTOR
FROM THE
REPUBLIC,
YOU
KNOW...

YOU HEAR
THAT, ZIT?
CHECK
ALL THE
VIPS IN
THE
MUMMA
ENCLAVE.



HE'S GOT FIVE
PARTNERS,
SAYS HE'S ON
A MISSION TO
TAKE A VIP
BACK TO THE
REPUBLIC

THE
PRISONER'S A
SOLDIER FROM
THE MUMMA
HOLY REPUBLIC.
MALE, AGE 18.
NO SIGN OF
DRUG USE.



109
CALLING
445, DO
YOU
READ?

109
OUT

"A nation intent on converting the world to the Mumma religion. The MHR and its allies are now engaged in the sale of the Arab League. An on-product, the MHR's growing inflation has antagonized CPT, but the citizens' lives are fairly good."



HE WAS LONGING
TO JOIN THE REAL
JAHAD. IT SEEMS
VERY DUMB FOR
WAS TO DELIVER
FOOD TO A DROP
BOX.

WHY DIDN'T
THEY USE
THE KID TO
MANEUVER
THOSE
PARTS?











ROGER, GIVE IT A TRY.



SOMEONE'S BROKEN INTO BLUE STEEL ALREADY. NO SIGN THEY'RE STILL HOME. WE'RE GOING IN.



FANG, THIS IS BOLT. DO YOU READ?

GOT YOU, BOLT.







FANG...
CLEAR OUT
OF HERE. IT'S
AN ANTI-
PERSONNEL
FRAGMENTA-
TION MINE.



WHA--?

I JUST
ARMED
IT.

YEAH.

THEN
THAT
SOUND...



SEND
US AN
INDOOR
SWEEPER
TEAM
FROM
POLICE
HQ.

THE QUARRY
TOOK FOUR ANTI-
CYCLOPS RIFLES.
WE'VE FOUND
TWO BOOBY-TRAPS
USING A/P MINES.
ORIGIN
UNKNOWN.



HEAD-
QUARTERS.
THIS IS
OZ.

WAIT.

ROGER,
OZ.



THE BOMB
SQUAD'S OUT
ON ASSIGNMENT.
WE'LL SEND YOU
THE BACKUP
FROM INVESTI-
GATIONS
OVER.



I BELIEVED
AS ONCE.
AND
REMEMBER
WHAT
HAPPENED?

YOU
THINK
I'D DO
THAT?



LOOK, I'M
OKAY. YOU
MOVE OUT.
WE'VE GOT
THREE MORE
PLACES TO
CASE.

KEEP HIM
SUPPORTED.
JUST LIKE
THAT. DON'T
LET HIM
MOVE.



Gauges
D...
Flight
mode...



ISRAEL??

AND ISRAEL'S OWN INFLATION PROBLEM IS GETTING OUT OF HAND.

SENATOR BOYLE, THE AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE, HAS BEEN PUSHING TO CUT AID TO ISRAEL.

THEY DON'T WANT ANY REASON TO ABANDON THE NEUTRAL STANCE.

WELL, FROM THE MOMENT WE ARE SUPPOSED TO MANIPULATE THE MIDDLE EAST REPUBLIC? BUT WHY SHOULD SHE??



MIDDLE-EAST HEGEMONY? A PRESENT TO THE REPUBLIC?

BUT ISRAEL'S GOTTA ALL THAT FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM IMPERIAL AMERICANA



WHEN WILL WE SEE THE END OF IT ALL?



IF THAT GUY
BACK THERE HAD
COUGHED UP
SOMETHING ABOUT
THAT, WE COULD
HAVE THIS THING
ALL WRAPPED
UP



"IF I'D SHOT
HIM THEN AND
THERE, THEY
WOULD HAVE
BOTH BEEN
SAFE. INSTEAD,
I PUT THEIR
LIVES IN THE
BALANCE."

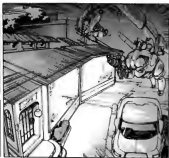
HE LANDED
THERE
LOOKING AT
HILOM AND
THAT PETE
GUY



WE'RE NOT
TERRORISTS.
DON'T JUDGE
THINGS BY
RESULTS. MAYBE
IT WASN'T THE
BEST CHOICE.
BUT YOU CAN'T
TURN BACK
THE CLOCK
NOW.



YOU
THINK HIS
INFORMA-
TION AND
PETE'S
INJURIES
BALANCE
OUT?"





THERE'S NO
ONE AROUND.
WANT
TO GO
STRAIGHT
IN?

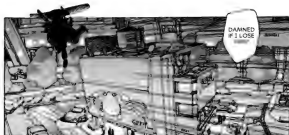












DAMNED
IF I LOSE



THINK
SHE'LL BE
ALL RIGHT
ON HER OWN?



WELL IT
SEEMS A
LITTLE
TIGHT



A
BUT
HE'S
IN
THE
WAY

LOOK
HERE -
HE'S
ON
THE
SCREEN
AND
WE
CAN'T
SEE
HIM



SO WHAT?
YOU CALL
YOURSELF
A LAW
ENFORCE-
MENT
OFFICER?

STILL, THEY'RE
THE ONES ASKING
FOR TROUBLE,
RIGHT? IT'S NOT
LIKE THEY'RE
A FRIENDLY
COUNTRY OR
ANYTHING...





YES, IT'S ABOUT THAT ONE.

SORRY TO DISTURB YOU SO LATE IN THE EVENING. ALA/AM.



I WANTED TO GO RIGHT IN THERE AND BUST THAT GIANT'S ASS.



DON'T LET THEM SEE THE DATE.

I KNOW THAT... BUT THE BAD GUYS WANT TO TRY AND REVERSE THAT.

EVERYONE NOT GETTING ANYWHERE. THANX A LOT!



LANCE IS TOO UNDERGROUND. A HIGH-BATTING AVERAGE. BUT NOT A WINNING STRIKE.

IT WAS PREDICTABLE THIS WOULD BE THE RESULT.



BUT NOT IF WE LET A REPTERBOD FOR IT...

...OF COURSE, WE COULD JUST HAVE HIM DIE IN AN "ACCIDENT"...



YOU KNOW... RELAX, RELAX.





I WOULD HAVE INTERPRETED A9'S GESTURE THE SAME AS YOU: "I'M OKAY, CONTINUE THE MISSION," RIGHT?



BACK TO WHAT YOU WERE SAYING BEFORE...



SOMEONE'S COMING

SHH!



YEAH...

UNNN... BUT YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN WRONG, LIKE ME...

YOU SHOULD HAVE A SURPRISE



BUT US DYING FOR HUMANS ISN'T DUTY, AND IF IT'S DUTY, THEN THE COMPENSATION THEY GAVE A9'S FAMILY WAS WAY TOO--

AND ON WORDS OF A9'S LIFE, "YOUR FORMER" PERS--

IT'S RIGHT THERE IN GREEK MYTHOLOGY-- "DEATH IS THE GREATEST GIFT."



ASS-HOLE.

YOU KNOW WHAT THAT BASTARD SAID? "I GET OFF LIGHTLY, YOU KEEP ON SUFFERING."



*A shaped-charge explosive



*E.O.D.—Explosives Ordinance Disposal





*If investigators are sloppy, the mine at the front door will take care of everything. If they're too smart for that, the second mine will delay them.





AT THIS
MOMENT, THEY
SHOULD
SCREW UP
EVERYTHING AND
RUN AWAY
FROM
HERE!

DEATH
YOU, 45.

45
THAT'S
45.

THEY'RE
SUPPOSED TO SWITCH TO
A TRAIN OR A
BUS OR SOMETHING.
BUT... THAT'S
THE THEORY.
ANYWAY...



THAT'S NOT
HOW IT GOES!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO
RUN AWAY FROM
HERE!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO
RUN AWAY FROM
HERE!



LOOK, 45.
YOU'RE NOT
THE ONLY
ONE WHO
WANTS THIS
BASTARD.
SO...
RUN!



DEATH
YOU, 45.
DEATH YOU.

DEATH
YOU, 45.
DEATH YOU.

THE FOUND CORPSE
OF A HUMAN
WASN'T HIS. AN
EXHAUSTED
SURVIVOR IN
THE CRASH
TO-STERNUM
KNIFE WOUND
SURVIVED
THE CRASH.

"VOLUN-
TEER!
HMMMM?"

NOT YET.
THE I-THINK
MIGHT BEAT ME
IN THE CRASH
AT A-10-11
WILL BE THE
ONE.

I JUDGED
THAT HASTE
TOOK
PRECEDENCE
IN THIS
INVESTIGA-
TION.

IT WAS
A-10-11
THAT
CRASHED
THE
ONE.

THE
CRASH
WAS
THE
ONE
THAT
CRASHED
THE
ONE.

I GAVE HIM
PSEUDO-
MOTIVATION
TO
RESEARCH
THE
CRASH
TO
TRIGGER
THE
ONE.









NOT JUST PRIORITY
OVERSIDE
ASSIGNMENT!
GUARD MY
GUESSES!



NO ONE
OUT AND
LAYS A
HAND ON
IT! NO
ONE TOUCHES
IT!

IT'S IN
CLASSI-
FIED---
THE GUN,
TOO.









WHAT WAS?

THAT WAS CLOSE.



YOU SLIPPED THAT KID SOMETHING, RIGHT? THE KID JUST TO BUY US SOME TIME.



HELL, WHEN I HEARD THAT SIX HAND-PICKED ESWAT GUYS WERE CHECKING OUT THOSE SITES, I FIGURED WE WERE FINISHED.



THANKS TO THAT, THE WRONG ACTORS ARE IN THE LIMELIGHT, AND WE'RE SAFELY OFFSTAGE.



THE YEAR 2100 HAS COME AND GONE, AND THEIR SAVIOR HASN'T SHOWN HIMSELF. INDUSTRIALIZATION AND INFORMATION TRANSFERS ARE BRIDGING THEIR OLD INDEPENDENCE DAY SOLIDARITY. THEY NEED OUR MAN.

MUMBA CAN'T COMPLAIN HE WASN'T IMPORTANT, ANYWAY.



I FIGURE KAINSU WON'T MAKE IT TO THE COAST, BUT EVEN IF HE DOES GET AWAY, THE REPUBLIC'S STILL IN OUR HANDS



DON'T UNDERESTIMATE ESWAT

I HEAR THAT THE ARMY WILL LOSE WHEN RESOURCES RUN OUT

BUT WHAT DO YOU GET OUT OF HELPING MURMA? YOU'RE NOT U.N. -- YOU'RE NOT EVEN A BELIEVER



LOOK, I DON'T CARE IF GOD WAS UNFAIR ABOUT WHERE HE BURIED HIS TREASURE, AND IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS IF HE STUCK PEOPLE IN COUNTRIES HE KNEW WERE GOING TO GET HIT BY DROUGHT AND FAMINE.

COME ON! I'VE GOT TO GO TO THE MARKET

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT? YOU'VE GOT TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE WHO ARE LEFT

SO YOU ISOLATE THEM DIPLOMATICALLY. THE OIL ROUTE'S NOT GOING TO CHANGE. MOST OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES STILL DEPEND ON OIL.



YOU'VE GOT A GOOD SIDE, KAINSU

THE WAY I WORK, SEE, IS THIS--IF YOU'RE NOT SURE SOMETHING'S OUT THERE, JUST ASSUME IT IS AND BE DAMNED CAREFUL.

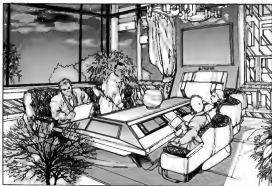
SO YOU'RE THE LIBERAL PRAGMATIST, PATCHING UP GOD'S WORK FOR HIM



EITHER WAY, SOME ARMS BUYING SHOULD BE MEETING WITH THE QUESTS RIGHT NOW TO GET THEM TO TALK HIS DIPLOMATIC BARGAINING

"QUESTS" WHO?

BT NOW KAINSU IS SURROUNDED. MAYBE HE'S ALREADY UNDER ATTACK.









SO... I PRESUME WE HAVE A DEAL? PLEASE TAKE SOME TIME AND RELAX BEFORE THE CONFERENCE



SHOWING YOUR HAND SO EARLY

IT SEEMS YOU PEOPLE AT ABBIS DON'T APPRECIATE HIS TRUE VALUE



OR AGAIN, THAT THE POWERS THAT BE IN THE OPPOSITION ARE MANIPULATING THE WHOLE SITUATION

THERE'VE BEEN RUMORS ALL ALONG THAT THE PARTY'S PURSUING THE HAWKS



THEY'VE GOT ELECTIONS COMING UP— GOT TO STAMP OUT ANY SCANDAL BEFORE IT STARTS

SUPPORT FOR THE IMPERIAL AMERICANA GOVERNMENT'S ON A DOWN ESCALADON THE WAR'S COMING BADLY INFLATION'S HEADING FOR THE SKY...



SO, JUST A BIT OF RED TAPE, AND IT'S TIME FOR ACT TWO.

IN ANY CASE, THE JONER RETURNS TO IMPERIAL AMERICANA, THEY AND THE HOLY REPUBLIC BEGIN TO DISTRUST EACH OTHER.

AND AGAIN, WITH A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT TWIST



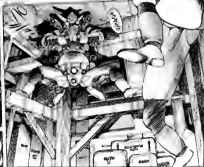
















YOU'RE
ESKAS
RIGHT?
I WANT TO
DEAL! GET
THESE OFF
ME!



OH,
SHIT...
I HATE
THOSE!



I WAS PLANNING TO
NAB THE TERRORISTS
AND SELL THEM OFF
TO THE HIGHEST
BIDDER... BUT YOU
CAN HAVE THEM...
JUST A HUNDRED
THOUSAND BILLS.
CHEAP, EHY? DEAL?









WE'VE GOT THE
KIDNAPERS
STUCK IN THE
ROOM, AND ON TOP
OF THAT WE'RE
FEEDING A LIGHT
CONCENTRATION
OF SLEEPING GAS
IN THROUGH THE
VENTILATION
SYSTEM.



ALL
QUIET ON
THE
FLOOR.
DON'T
DO
SOMETHING
LIKE
THAT.

THAT'S
THE
KIDNAPERS
STUCK
IN THE
ROOM?



I THOUGHT
THEY WERE
DOING THE
FINAL
CHECKS. IT'S
TAKING
THEM LONG
ENOUGH.



THE
KIDNAPERS
STUCK
IN THE
ROOM?

IF YOU ASK
ME, WHAT IF
THEY
KIDNAPERS
STUCK
IN THE
ROOM?



BLIND
AND
THE
KIDNAPERS
STUCK
IN THE
ROOM?



THE
KIDNAPERS
STUCK
IN THE
ROOM?



THE BAD
KIDNAPERS
STUCK
IN THE
ROOM?

THEY
KIDNAPERS
STUCK
IN THE
ROOM?

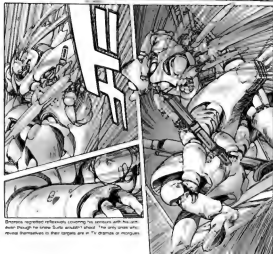
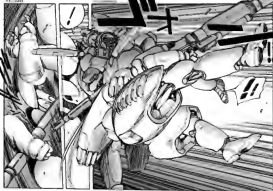
THEY
KIDNAPERS
STUCK
IN THE
ROOM?











Bronze regretted reflexively crushing his sensors with his own teeth though he knew Gulls shouldn't shed. "The only ones who reveal themselves in their targets are in the drama or morgue."





THERE--NOW THAT YOU'RE ALL WARNED UP, LET'S GET TO WORK. I'LL BLIND THE GIANT, BUT ONLY AFTER WE'VE LET THEM PLAY A LITTLE LONGER... PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE. USE TWO GAS SHELLS. NO MORE.



IT'S TWENTY YEARS TOO SOON FOR YOU TO TRY THIS CRAP ON ME, ROOKIE. GOT IT?

I THOUGHT SO! YOU'RE DELINAN'S ACHILLES' HEEL!



WELL...
SHALL WE
GET
STARTED?
MARK!!

I'M
DAMNED
GLAD I'M
NOT
FIGHTING
AGAINST
YOU.

IF WE WERE
ENEMIES, I'D
NEVER HAVE
LET YOU FIND
ME. WE'D
PASS IN THE
NIGHT, BOY.

TWO!

DOWN
ON
THREE,

ONE!

THREE!



















I TURNED OVER
A SUSPICIOUS
AGITATOR TO
SPECIAL
INVESTIGATIONS,
AND THE ENDS
LET HIM GET
AWAY.

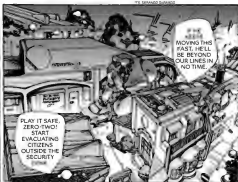


BOLT'S OUT
SEARCHING
FOR DELUNAN



HOW MANY
CYBORG
RIFLES DID YOU
SEE?











East Asian opposition becoming East-West vs. Arab-in-the-middle. A vs. B (for example, the Israeli supporting faction vs. the opposing faction) doesn't resolve any problems. Because Morton fights with a third-party enemy internally, he can't see the principles of coexistence. Total coexistence itself is the biggest issue. The one thing Fang fails to understand is that terrorism is a cancer, and cancerous cells can't coexist with a human body.





CAN'T YOU UNDER-
STAND THIS HIGH-
BROW HONEY OF
MINE? WHAT'S
WRONG WITH GOOD
OLD POISONINGS AND
DROWNINGS, YOU
ASK? THEY GOT NO
CLASS... SEE? NO
CLASS AT ALL.



IF I WANTED
MONEY, HONEY,
I'D START A
FLOWER SHOP
OR A MINERAL
WATER BAR.



AW, COME
ON. HOW
ABOUT IF
WE SPLIT
THE
HUNDRED
GRAND?



STOP IT,
DEUNAN!
DON'T START
THINKING
ABOUT YOUR
DEBTS NOW!
BAD GIRL!



HEHE





YOU GET THE HELL OUT OF THERE BEFORE THEY START SHOOTING BACK. GOT IT?

THREE SECONDS AFTER I GET YOUR SIGNAL, THE FIRST FIRE CRACKER POPS. GOT IT?

DON'T GET SMART-ASSED WITH ME!



NOT ME. DEPART WE'VE... RAL

HOW ABOUT IT? AT LEAST FORK OUT FOR ALL THESE EXPLOSIVES!

MY PRETTY LITTLE BOMBS ARE ALL READY, SWEETIE



SO WHAT IF I DON'T? YOU GONNA ARREST ME 'RED HANDED'? C'MON, CUT THE COP RULLSHIT

A FART ONE KID!

GEE, IT JUST OCCURRED TO ME. BUT DO YOU HAVE A LICENSE FOR HANDLING EXPLOSIVES?



LET YOUR WEAPON DO YOUR TALKING! I DON'T WANT ANYONE GETTING IN THE WAY OF MY TALKING!

YOU CAN'T GET IN THE WAY OF MY TALKING!



KEEP IT MOVING!

ONCE MORE INTO THE BREACH, DEAR FRIEND!

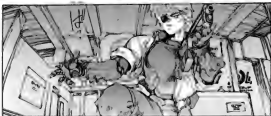
AN' ONLY 'CAUSE YOU FORGOT TO GET IT!



HEY, LEE! OF COURSE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE! 'CAUSE I KNOW YOU'LL NEVER TAKE IT TO THE BOSS!

YOUNG AND DUMB. I KNOW HER TYPE!

SURELY SURELY





















A
A
AND



AHH
PHOOEY
I WAS OFF
BY A FEW
SECONDS.

WOW
IT
LOOKS
IT



OH, MY
HEAD!
DAMN YOU
SONAKU!
YOU LYIN'
SACK OF
SHIT!

















GODDAMN!
MY BLIND
SIDE!



SHE
BLOCKED
ME!!

















I'LL TRY
TA, WITH
INTO SURREN-
DERING AT THE
NEXT MAJOR
STREET. YOU
TRACK DOWN
THE LITTLE GUY
AND TAKE HIM
OUT.



ESHAAT--
STOP WHERE
YOU ARE! ARE
YOU ASESU
KAINISU FROM
THE WUNMA
EMBASSY?



PERHAPS
WE COULD
HELP YOU
LEAVE THE
COUNTRY
LEGALLY
WHY?

PLEASE
ALLOW US
TO ASSIST
YOUR
TRIP
WHY NOT?



WE'VE OBTAINED
AN OBTAINMENT
YOU'VE BEEN ASSIGNED
TO TERRITORY. WE
WILL HAVE TO
EMPHATICALLY
STRESS THAT YOUR
RECENT ACTIVITY
HAS BEEN
DEGRADED



IF YOU CAN
A FINGER
ON ME, I'LL
LOOSE A
FORMAL
PROTEST
WITH THE
FOREIGN
OFFICE!

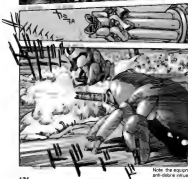
I HAVE
IMMUNE
IMMUNITY--
YOU CAN'T
ARREST OR
CONFIN
ME!











AND THIS IS TWO-ONE CALL ONE THREE SEVEN ONE TWO

THOSE ARE DEZERNIC SWAY ROBOTS! AND'S IN CHARGE DOWN THERE

Note: the equipment in panel six makes that sound when the anti-detonation intrusion hits open. The color-looking things are gas pressure releases













THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN



HE'S GOT A
RED CARON
CARDEN
SAYING ME



IN THE WORLD OF THE 1000 YEARS, IT IS A VERY COMMON SENSE. SOMEONE WHO
REALLY WANTS TO BE A HERO



HE CAN SEE
THEIR REAL
COUNT ACTUALLY
WANT TO BE A
HERO!

LOOK AT
THEY
WANT TO BE
A HERO!

















WHAT
WILL
BECOME
OF THE
MILITARY?



YOU HAVE
NO RIGHTS
UNDER
INTERNATIONAL LAW
ANY QUESTIONS?

WILLIE
WALTON
WILSON



People don't want
 PETA's propaganda. It's insulting
 to them as an individual.
 I grew up in a Christian family
 and I don't have a death on my
 mind. I believe in the human
 family. I don't think we
 have anything to be ashamed of.
 We have dignity.
 THE PEOPLE'S
 CHOICE

1. **NAME AND TITLE**
 2. **ADDRESS**
 3. **CITY AND STATE**
 4. **ZIP CODE**
 5. **PHONE NUMBER**
 6. **FAX NUMBER**
 7. **E-MAIL ADDRESS**
 8. **DATE**
 9. **SIGNATURE**
 10. **PRINTED NAME**
 11. **POSITION**
 12. **COMPANY**
 13. **INDUSTRY**
 14. **PRODUCTS**
 15. **SERVICES**
 16. **MARKETING STRATEGIES**
 17. **COMPETITORS**
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 232. **DATE**
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 234. **PRINTED NAME**
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 236. **COMPANY**
 237. **INDUSTRY**
 238.



100



I DID
KNOW THE
PAGE...
EVEN...

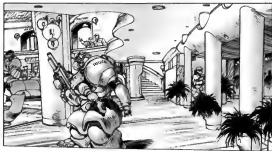
I WAS
READY TO
DESTROY ALL
THE CITIES OF
THE WORLD
FOR THE
ALREADY



WHA?!!
DAMN
YOU.















THAT
ONE-EYED
BITCH...SO,
NO ONE
GOT
AWAY...



FIGURED YOU'D
SWAP SUITS
SOMEWHERE
ALONG THE LINE.
WE MARKED ALL
OUR UNIFORMS,
JUST IN
CASE.

ONE OF OUR
PALS TIPPED US
OFF ABOUT THE
LANDMATE.
WE'VE BEEN
TRACKING
YOU FOR A
KILOMETER.



I WANTED
TO SEE YOU
BREAK INTO THE
SENATOR'S ROOM,
BUT HELL,
CAN'T HAVE
EVERYTHING,
CAN YOU?

YOU SHOULD
HAVE PULLED
OUT SOONER.
GOTTA GIVE YOU
CREDIT, THOUGH--
YOU SURE MADE
TRACKS AS
SOON AS YOU
CAUGHT ON.



NEVER
THOUGHT
I'D MEET
YOU
AGAIN.

MAGUS, YOU
BASTARD... I
THOUGHT YOU'D
BOUGHT IT FROM
THAT MUSTARD
GAS IN
FACH.*



Fach is a place name.
Mustard gas is a type of poison gas.











FORGET THAT TRAINING YOU GOT IN FIVE- AND SIX-PERSON SQUADS. GET USED TO FIGHTING IN PAIRS, AND DO IT FAST. THEN AIM FOR LEARNING TO FIGHT SOLO.



BUT YOU'RE JUST THE OPPOSITE. YOU COME IN TOO CLOSE, AND END UP WITH A NARROW FIELD OF FIRE.



WHAT I'M SAYING IS THAT IF A GUY IS FIRING TOO FAR OUT, IT WON'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO SEND HIM BACK TO THE SHOOTING RANGE. WHAT HE NEEDS IS TRAINING IN STALKING, SO HE CAN GET THE QUARRY IN RANGE.



GO EASY ON THE FUN STUFF, EH?



YOU TOO, "PIRATE CAPTAIN."



TWO-ONE, ZERO-TWO COME WITH ME



YOU DON'T HAVE THE WEIGHT OR THE HORSEPOWER, SO YOU'VE GOT TO GO IN FIGHTER. GET UP CLOSE ONCE YOU'RE IN THERE. LET YOUR SPEED AND AGILITY WORK FOR YOU.



I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR WANTING TO USE YOUR KNIFE AND HAND-TO-HAND, BUT YOU CAN'T COUNT ON EVERYONE BEING SOFTIES LIKE THESE GUYS HERE



LISTEN TO ME, AND YOU'LL IMPROVE FASTER THAN IF YOU KEEP ON FOLLOWING EACH OTHER'S FAULTS.

RIGHT NOW YOU PLAY OFF EACH OTHER'S BAD HABITS. MAKE THEM WORK AGAINST YOU.





OUR MAN TRIED TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE CRAZED ARAB HAWKS WANTED TO FRAME BOTH BOYLE AND THE MUNMA HOLY REPUBLIC, WHILE HE KEPT HIMSELF HIDDEN IN THE CLOUDS? BULLSHIT. NO CONVINCING MOTIVE THERE. I DON'T BUY IT.



IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG WAR.



SO THAT JUST LEAVES "THE MAN IN THE PHOTO."



IF THEY'D LET US GO AFTER IT SOONER, WE COULD HAVE CONTROLLED THE RISK MORE EFFECTIVELY.



WHAT THE HELL IS YOUR POINT?

COULD THE GIANT HAVE JUST BEEN BAIT TO SEE OUR NEW ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT AND TACTICS IN ACTION? OR WAS IT SOME GESTURE TO THE HAWKS?

The Imperial Revolutionary General Service clearly wasn't all that it was cracked on. At least it was never a dominant and badass of America, so they wanted to keep him.



WE WERE ABLE TO RID OURSELVES OF A NASTY PIECE OF WORK AND BOOT OUT A MOLE AT THE SAME TIME. PRETTY DECENT RESULTS, IF YOU ASK ME.



EVEN IF THEY DID DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN THE HOLY REPUBLIC AND IMPERIAL AMERICANA, AT LEAST WE WERE ABLE TO KEEP BOTH MUNMA AND THE PUPPETERS (MOSSAD) FROM ACHIEVING THEIR OBJECTIVES.



THAT WOULD GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO DEMONSTRATE OUR "DIPLOMATIC" SECURITY PROVISIONS.



THE COLONEL AND POLICE HEADQUARTERS MAY HAVE DELIBERATELY SAID ON THE KAINISU CASE UNTIL IT GOT OUT OF HAND.



DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY LIVES WE LOST?



YOU CALL THESE "DECENT RESULTS"...

DON'T BE AN IDIOT!!



OUR ALL-PURPOSE SLAVES. SECURITY WITH A LICENSE TO KILL. WHAT A DETERRENT.



THE END

IF OUR SECURITY
FOR THE U.N.
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MEETING NEXT WEEK IS
NO MORE EFFECTIVE,
WE'LL BE LUCKY IF
THEY DON'T
DISBAND
EDWAT ON THE SPOT.

IF BY SOME
CHANCE YOU
SHOULD BE
RIGHT, THEN WE
DIDN'T LIVE UP TO
EXPECTATIONS
NOT EVEN

姓名: _____
 学号: _____
 班级: _____
 日期: _____

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1001-1005.

1000

EVEN IF SHE WANTS
 But, as women's rights have
 changed, so have rape laws
 and their definition
 of rape. This is true
 and, until the 1970s,
 women's rights laws
 and rape laws
 were not
 connected. "We forced
 a connection
 in statutes."

TO PRESENT HER

THAT'S WHY
YOU NEED AN
LIFE LINE

IT'S LIKE
THIS:
WHenever
you
live and
work to
get the

There are several reasons why the information in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* is not available to the general public. The information is not available to the general public because it is not in the public domain. The information is not available to the general public because it is not in the public domain. The information is not available to the general public because it is not in the public domain.







Esawa's bases are largely divided into two types -- official ones without even a guard in restricted areas used for training and 24-7 fully outfitted standby, and unofficial camouflaged ones like undercover civilian housing and rooms in urban apartments. The Rai where Doyle was hidden and the facility on this page are the latter.



SEE YA...

THANKS, BUT I'VE GOT SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

WE'RE GOING OFF TO KILL A FEW BEERS WANT TO JOIN US?



HEY, MAN...

WHY DIDN'T SHE SAY SOMETHING ABOUT "BRI" OR "PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS," LIKE SHE USUALLY DOES.



HEH...

HEY--WHY'D YOU WANT TO INVITE THAT LITTLE CREEP ALONG? YOU THINK I'LL GET JEALOUS OR SOMETHING? I'M NOT THAT KIND OF TWO-BIT FLOOZY, SEE? YOU LISTENIN' TO ME?



BETTER ENJOY LIFE WHILE YOU CAN, LIKE SAYING "GOODBYE" AGAIN.

AW, POOR BABY, AS LONG AS THE WORLD'S STILL FULL OF WOLVES RUNNING AROUND PUSHING THEIR INTOLERANT IDEOLOGIES DOWN EACH OTHER'S THROATS, LITTLE SHEEP GOT TO PLAY LION...CAN'T GO BACK TO BEING LAMBS AGAIN.

NOPE--REPS FROM IRAN AND THE ISLAMIC FEDERATION ARE GONNA POWWOW ABOUT HOW TO HANDLE THE MUNNA. I'M ASSIGNED TO GUARD DUTY.

FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY?

OH, NO, YOU DON'T! DON'T YOU DARE TELL ME TO TAIL THAT LITTLE BITCH! I'VE GOT SPECIAL TRAINING TOMORROW, MAGUS!



She's violating security regulations.









HEY!
GUESS
WHAT
THIS
IS!

WHA
WHA

YOUR
EXPENSE
RE-
PORTS...?



WHAT ARE YOU
TRYING TO WRITE
OFF HERE?
YOUR GUESSES
FROM AMECHI
MOTORS? THAT
BIKE YOU
BOUGHT LAST
WEEK?



NOT TO
MENTION
THIS FINE
2012
CABERNET...



OUR LOANS ARE
SETTLED. WE'VE GOT
A PAID VACATION.
EVERYTHING'S PEACHY.
LIFE'S A ROSE-COLORED
CAROUSEL.
♡ YAMOO!



HEE HEE...
MY INSTRUCTOR
IN DOCUMENTS
AND FORGERY
AT THE ACADEMY
TOLD ME TO
PRACTICE



SEE...
LOOKS
JUST LIKE
LANCE'S
SIGNA-
TURE...



BECAUSE THEY
ALREADY PROCESSED
THE SAME
EXPENSE
REPORT
YESTER-
DAY!



AW, BUT...
"BUT WHY?"
YOU ASK?



NO!
ABSOLUTELY
NOT! DON'T YOU DARE
TURN THAT
IN!

SO WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?
CAN I
PULL IT
OFF?

THE DARK SIDE



ANYWAY,
NOW WE
CAN CUT
LOOSE AND
REALLY
ENJOY OUR
VACATION



A REM-
BURSEMENT
CHECK
ALREADY?



ACTUALLY,
I'M AFRAID
I DID SORT
OF FORGET
THE WINE,
BUT...

SURE-
WE'VE
JUST GOT
LUNCH
IN OUR
BARTS.



THIS IS
AMAZING—
TALK A
LITTLE



HO!
IF IT'S A
MISSIONARY
FOR SOME
NUT RELIGION,
I'LL SEND HIM
TO HIS MAKER.
SPECIAL
DELIVERY!

WITH A WOOD
BULLET!



BUT
THEN
AGAIN,
MAYBE
NOT...
HURRY!

THE DARK SIDE
GIVE YOURS A TRY! (THE DARK SIDE)
GIVE YOURS A TRY!

士 郎 正 宗 THE PROMETHEAN BALANCE
APPLESEED™

In the future utopian metropolis of Olympus, a blazing beacon of humanity amidst a post-global-war wasteland, ESWAT agents Deunan and Briareos keep the peace and prevent Olympus from sliding back into chaos. When Olympus intelligence learns of a giant Landmate powersuit being built in secrecy, on the threshold of a top-secret international conference of the highest importance to be held in Olympus, ESWAT is mobilized to crack the mystery and disrupt a terrorist operation that could turn the fragile peace into the next world war!

From the legendary manga creator Shirow Masamune, the visionary who brought us such epics as *Ghost in the Shell*, *Dominion*, *Orion*, and *Black Magic*, comes the action-packed fourth volume of the series that inspired the wildly popular animated film *Appleseed*!

This collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format, as originally published.

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LOVAG